**Beat: Health**

# Europe finds link between AstraZeneca vaccine and thrombosis cases in patients

**The EMA will publish a report this week**

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**USPA NEWS -** The head of vaccine strategies of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), Marco Cavaleri, confirmed this Wednesday, in statements to the Italian newspaper Il Messaggero, the relationship between the Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19 and the cases of thrombus formation, the majority serious, in people immunized with the British preparation. "Now we can say it, it is clear that there is a link with the vaccine," said Cavaleri.

The European Medicines Agency convened on March 29 a group of experts from different medical areas to contribute their vision to the research being carried out by the pharmacovigilance body of the EMA (PRAC). The EMA is scheduled to publish its findings this week. Therefore, there is still no official position of the European health authorities on the Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine, although the statements of the head of vaccine strategies of the EMA, Marco Cavaleri, allow to anticipate the meaning of the report that will be made public soon. "In the next few hours we will say that there is a link, but we still have to understand how it happens," said the expert in his statement to Il Messaggero.

Most likely, Europe will suspend the administration of the British vaccine on a precautionary basis, as it did in March. To find out whether vaccination with the AstraZeneca antigen should be stopped completely, European health authorities want to find out why thrombi occur, which have caused the death of seven people in the United Kingdom, nine in Germany and two in France, among others countries.

If Europe permanently suspends the administration of the Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine, some 70 million doses will be lost on the continent. The problem also affects people who have received the first dose and who may be insufficiently immunized against COVID-19. Another possibility is that the EMA establishes vaccination guidelines for age groups susceptible to thrombi, especially women under 50 years of age with platelet deficiency.

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